

COMPUTERS/HILLEL SEGAL

NoBlink a knockout for cursors

Last year I discovered a handy little program called "Cruise Control" that lets you set the speed of your cursor. Two similar programs have since jumped into the ring, and one of them — "NoBlink Accelerator" — is a knockout.

Cruise Control lets you set the speed that the blinking rectangle on the screen travels when you move the cursor-control keys — the left, right, up and down arrows. It worked with almost any program that ran on an IBM PC or PC-compatible, and allowed you to zip through documents or spreadsheets.

But Cruise Control had one fault that eventually made me remove it from my computer: it also speeded up the auto-repeat feature of the "delete" and "backspace" keys when using a word processing program. So, if I held down those keys for an instant too long, whole chunks of text were inadvertently deleted. While I liked

the faster cursor feature for quickly moving around in my text, I wasn't willing to put up with the almost-daily problem of losing text.

Unfortunately, one of the new programs, "Repeat Performance," has the same problem.

But the second new one, NoBlink Accelerator, not only corrects the text-delete problem but adds another feature that's wonderful.

Here's what NoBlink does, starting with the wonderful feature:

✓ It provides a color cursor. NoBlink converts the blinking cursor to a solid color, non-blinking box. The cursor on a regular col-

or screen is usually hard to find. With NoBlink's red box, however, you can't miss it! And if you don't like red, you can change it to a color of your choosing.

✓ It shows characters through the cursor. Not only is the cursor larger than usual, but it shows the

character through the cursor in another color. Again, the color of the underlying character can be changed at will.

✓ It sets the cursor shape. For those with a monochrome monitor, you can change the size and shape of the cursor, making it easier to find and see.

✓ It speeds up the cursor movement. With NoBlink, four different speed settings are offered. Cruise Control and Repeat Performance have variable speed settings that are difficult to fine-tune and that create text-delete problems.

Ironically, Repeat Performance is published by WordPerfect Corp., the same company that makes WordPerfect. And though it was surely designed to be highly compatible with WordPerfect's own word processing program, it does not function as well as NoBlink.

Just how fast is NoBlink? Prior to its installation, by just holding down the down-arrow key on my keyboard, the cursor on the screen took about two and a half seconds to move from the top line to the

bottom line on the screen. After installation, using the next-to-highest preset speed, the same action took about one and a half seconds. Going from left to right, the improvement was even more dramatic: it took seven seconds before and about two seconds after.

NoBlink's price is \$49.95, plus \$10 extra for shipping when ordered directly from the publisher, Nostradamus of Salt Lake City.

Are there any problems with the program? I experienced just one: It can't be used with some computers tied to a network or serving as a network host.

The bottom line: NoBlink is the best and it's worth the price, especially if your computer work involves a lot of cursor movement or if you have an Enhanced Graphics Adapter type of color display.

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